

Memorandum

To: EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

EAC Meeting: June 5, 2023

From: STATE AGENCIES' EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

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Subject: March 21, 2023 Executive Meeting Recap

Summary:

On March 21, 2023, the Interagency Equity Advisory Committee (Committee) held its first Executive Meeting. Committee members met with the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Undersecretary, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Director, and California Transportation Commission (Commission) Executive Director and Commissioners to discuss priority focus areas and a common vision for the Committee. C. Sequoia Erasmus, Associate Deputy Director of Equity and Engagement at the Commission, will provide a recap of this first Executive Meeting.

Background:

In 2022, CalSTA, Caltrans, and the Commission established an Interagency Equity Advisory Committee. The Committee, which consists of 15 members serving one or two-year staggered terms, will make recommendations to enhance equity in transportation planning and funding programs.

Two Executive Meetings with agency leadership will be held each year to set goals and report on accomplishments. On March 21, 2023, the first Executive Meeting was held. Participants included Committee members, Commissioners, as well as Commission, Caltrans, and CalSTA executive staff. Committee members reviewed the Committee scope and the results from the priority focus areas survey. Discussion was held to identify any other areas not identified in the scope that the Committee would like to prioritize in the future.

Highlights from the March Executive Meeting included hearing from Committee members about their personal connections to transportation advocacy in their communities. Committee members, Commissioners, and agency leadership shared meaningful and heartfelt insight into their broad range of experiences which include Tribal representation, disability advocacy, community advocacy, housing advocacy, economic and workforce development, environmental justice, liberation work, and broadband access.

Committee members also heard from transportation equity expert Tamika Butler, who, as the keynote speaker, helped set the stage for the importance of the work of the Committee. Ms. Butler challenged the group to “realize that this is not work for certain groups of people who fit certain demographics, or who check certain boxes, or who have certain words in their job title. This is work for all of us.” Ms. Butler also asked Committee members, “as you all form this community together, how are you going to describe the work you do? How will others describe it for years to come? And what’s at stake?”

Finally, Committee members reviewed the January 2023 survey results. Committee members emphasized a need to gain a better understanding of how transportation funding, policy, and programs work in California. The [survey results](https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/eac-meetings/2023/2023-03/tab-5-a11y.pdf) will be used to guide the work of the Committee over the next year (<https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/eac-meetings/2023/2023-03/tab-5-a11y.pdf>).

EAC members also requested a workplan that outlines when the Committee will be asked to provide input on items such as program guidelines or Senate Bill 1 competitive funding program application evaluation. While interagency staff is working to put together a workplan, Committee members have already supported numerous activities, including evaluating the community engagement section of Senate Bill 1 Program applications, offering feedback on the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program Guidelines, attending an informational workshop briefing on the Port and Freight Infrastructure Program, and offering feedback on the 2024 State Transportation Improvement Program Guidelines.